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Newsletter

Number 9

1 April 2011



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

... to organisers of this weekend's trail bike ride, to the Lovell family for the generous use of their farm, and to those geared up to support the day.

.. to our Lit Quiz parent support team.

People of the week

.. Bronson for being an awesome brother to his little sister Nicole who has just started school.

.. Tyler for lending her pony to a friend for a forthcoming competition. A good example of valuing others.

.. Former students Brianna and Dallas who achieved Junior Girls Athletics Champion and Intermediate Girls Athletics Champion (respectively) at the recent K.H.S. Athletics Day.

Xanthe & Max who won 2 bronze and 1 silver and 2 silver and 1 bronze medals (respectively) in the NZ Water Ski Nationals at Lake Crichton last week. Congratulations.

Trail Bike Ride

A reminder that the Trail

2 more sleeps to go

Bike Ride is scheduled for Sunday 3 April - registration on the day. This is a great family day and so please support by spreading the word among family and friends and by attending on the day. If you have some time to spare, and can help on the day, please give Alastair Rickey a call on 4355509. Details at the end of the newsletter.

School Disco

On the 14 April at lunchtime there will be a Junior disco. Entry fee will be \$2, prizes can be won. At 7pm the same night the rest of the school will have its disco. Entry fee will also be \$2.

Hand Towels

As we near the winter terms (and the accompanying cold and flu season) we need to do all we can to encourage healthy practices here at school. Proper hand washing (and drying) are an important part of this. Children are supplied with liquid soaps in all of the toilets (and classrooms) and warm water for hand washing is being phased in also. As in earlier years parents are asked to put a hand towel in their child's bag each week which they can use after washing their hands (because obviously shared towels are not a good idea). Some parents also place hand sanitizers in their child's lunchbox for them to use before eating.

Visiting Author - Rosie Boom

Orders closed today. If you are still interested in purchasing books, there will be an extension until the close of school on Monday.

Matarau School Recipe Book

As a fundraiser we would like to publish a Matarau School recipe book. Please could you email faithfull.family@xtra.co.nz with your favourite recipe or pop a hard copy in to Helen at the office and we will compile a book. Kids are encouraged to be involved too. Who knows we may find NZ's next Master Chef amongst us!

School Vegetable Garden

We have been approached by an enthusiastic parent who would like to create a Gardening Club here at school. The intention would be to mentor a small group of motivated children, to teach some important life skills, and to profile the benefits of growing vegetables to the wider school. We do have a school garden but this lies somewhat neglected for much of the year. If you are willing to assist in some way with a Garden Club (perhaps an afternoon a week - Tuesday or Wednesday good days but can be flexible) then please contact Kevin at school or Lisa Jones on 4356199 (027 258 9663). You would get plenty of support.

School Choir

If you would like your child to participate in choir, and they have not brought an "expression of interest" form home, please contact Grace Williams here at school. The first off-site choir practice is 5 April and so we would need to hear from you by Monday. Questions please to Mrs (Grace) Williams.

Choir .. can you help?

Parents of children in the school choir will know that off site visits to Hurupaki School (and then Forum North) are planned on 5 April, 31 May, 5 July and 8 August. Mrs Williams would be enormously grateful to any parent able to travel with us on one or more of these mornings to assist with supervision of children. If at all able to help, please give Mrs Williams a call on Monday morning. Please make contact even if able to accompany our choir on only one of these mornings.

Rippa Rugby

Parents of children in years 3 to 6 will have received consent forms for Rippa Rugby Tournaments to be held on 15 April and 1 July. Both events will be held at the Tikipunga Sports ground - under way shortly after 10:00 AM and concluding around 2:00 PM. Children will travel to and from the venue by bus but parents are most welcome to support our teams on the days. Please ensure that children bring their lunch, warm clothing, sunhats and plenty to drink. Please return consent forms to your child's teacher **this coming Monday**. Any questions in the run up to this event to Miss Bevin please.

Bark Gardens

Shortly we will be spending a bit of time upgrading some of our bark gardens. If you have any miniature shrubs or other suitable plants we would be most grateful if you could drop these in to school.

Special Needs Programmes

Parents of children nominated for placement in term 2 will receive notice shortly.

Bus Children - High Visibility Vests

Please ensure your child has their vest on before they head off in the morning, and we will try our best to ensure they put it on at the end of the day.

North Fuels Sponsorship

If interested in sponsoring the school through this programme you can nominate our school by visiting Northfuels at www.northfuels.co.nz or on 0800 484 3543. Northfuels are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Buses

Quite often children advise us that their bus arrangements have changed and that they will be travelling on a different bus to a different destination. While our policy is to only allow changes where these have been requested by parents (by means noted below) we are aware that, if we enforce this policy, we could well be sending a child to a pick up point where there is no adult waiting for them. While this would mean we had technically done the right thing (as our policy requiring parent advice of changes is clear) this would give us no comfort if harm came to a child by rigid enforcement of this policy. Similar risks exist if we act on a child's instruction in the absence of confirming information from their parents. Sometimes a great deal of time is wasted (and buses held up) while we seek confirmation from parents of last minute instructions from a child. It is thus absolutely imperative that parents **ADVISE US IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES TO USUAL BUS ARRANGEMENTS**. This can be by phone, note in the morning, advance email to the school (admin@matarau.school.nz), or by leaving a voice message on a phone which is now dedicated for this purpose and which is checked every day prior to bus departure.

Scholastic Books

All orders and payments were due back today.

Matarau School Hockey

First training will be held Tuesday 5th April (next week) 3.00-4.00 at Matarau School. This is so if you have any questions we can sort these out. Please bring suitable shoes, shinpads, stick and mouthguard. For any further information contact Kristine 4335885 or Karlene 4338407.

Community Notices

For Sale - Kunekune piglet, \$50 each. Call Cassandra 4335968.

For Sale - Round hay bales, \$60 each, Phone Dave 021731223

For Rent - Kamo West modern home. 7 minutes to Matarau School. 3 bed, huge private deck, single lockup garage and extra parking, fenced, pets by approval. Hirupaki School Zone, Available April 17, ph Hana 4350230 or 0274352786

House Cleaner Available - Reliable 17 yr old female Polytech Student, experienced with references available. Please phone Hannah 02102771725

Porse Approved Caretaker - for 3mths to 5 yrs old children. 200 mtrs from Matarau School, 20 hrs free for 3 yrs and up. Ph Annemari Diederiks on 0211413221.

Zumba Classes - Tuesday night 7pm, Matarau School Hall, \$10 per class or concession cards available. For more info please contact Annette Brown on 0275505000.

"ontheroad" Rock Solid Camp 2011 -Sun 17th April to Thur 21st April, only \$140, Exclusively for year 7, 8 & 9 students. The camp will be run by fulltime Rock Solid Club Staff from YOUTH ZONE (incendo). With heaps of rad activities from things that make you go AAAAGH! Since we are a mobile camp we will be going to Dargaville, Kai iwi lakes, Waipoua forest, Kaitia, Cape Reinga, Paihia back to Whangarei. With heaps of cool activities and sight seeing around Northland. Your highlights will be 4 wheel bikes, swimming, massive kauri trees, sand duning, Cape Reinga, Mangonui fish n chip shop and Excitor trip through hole in the rock Bay of Islands. Extra things if that's not enough, crazy games, Big screen movies, playstation, X-Box and heaps more!!! Friends, friends, and more friends and a chance to talk about life's important issues and heaps more. Book in Now and Register!! Can only take 30. www.ontheroad.info.ms or www.youthzone.org.nz
There are still spaces left. Phone Scottie at Rock Solid 4386059 office or A/H 021 782547

School Newsletter .. If you would like to receive this by email contact us on admin@matarau.school.nz

Skids After School Programme

Kia Ora, Skids will be offering a fun filled after school care programme during 2011. Please register your interest by ringing or txt Erena Koopu on 0278461724. Alternatively pop into the hall after school to find out more information.

Skids offer safe and reliable after school care with a focus on a well structured, balanced programme offering fun activities to your school for your children, giving parent's and caregiver's peace of mind.



Bullying in schools

The issue of bullying has once again raised its head in the national (in fact international) media. A colleague commented to the media recently that the definition of bullying had changed significantly over the course of his career. Bullying was once defined as behaviour which was calculated, sustained and targeted. The definition has been widened considerably in recent years and, to some parents, includes any (even one off) act of aggression. Debates about how we define bullying can actually be a distraction from what really matters – that kids are (and perceive themselves to be) safe and happy in the environment in which they (aside from home) spend the greater part of their early life. People who look for simple solutions to this problem won't find them. People who think the solution lies entirely (or even mainly) with schools are not being realistic. Children are a product of the homes and wider communities from which they draw .. school is thus a microcosm of the wider world. Some researchers have even suggested that school may have a less than 10% influence on moulding a child's character. **All this aside, schools have an obligation, and usually an overwhelming desire, to make school a good experience for children.** This is something we take VERY seriously. We care deeply about every child who enters the school gate every day and feel their hurt when they are on the receiving end of negative behaviours. We want to know **early** if there is anything / anyone making them unhappy at school and promise to act quickly and decisively.

Bullying .. So .. you can help by ..

- .. reiterating our first advice to children which is **to make it clear to other children when something they have said or done is hurting them** **"I don't like it when you "** (this empowers victims and solves most problems). Children have the option of doing this in the presence of a staff member if they wish.
- .. **letting us know if this first step has not worked – or, even better, asking your child to let us know.** Follow-up meetings will be scheduled, and re-scheduled, until the matter is resolved.
- .. make it clear to your child that it is **not only OK to see an adult but it is often sensible and necessary to do so.**
- .. recognise that there are **two sides to most stories and that resolution can take time.**
- .. once referred **leave it to us and trust us to do our job.**
- .. **get back to us if things do not improve or if they slip back.** Cases can be "re-opened".
- .. be the best role models you can be personally (and take an interest in who your children play with and what they watch on television).

Finally, it is important to keep things in perspective. ..

- 1) Children will clash from time to time .. this is part of being socialised .. without this children will never be ready for the adult world and nor will they develop balanced, rounded, empathetic, robust characters. **React where necessary but try not to over-react.**
- 2) Our children by and large are supportive and encouraging of each other. While they make mistakes I **doubt there is a safer kinder more supportive playground anywhere.** Our kids are simply awesome!
- 3) In nearly all cases parents are 100% supportive of our efforts, expect their children to take responsibility for what they have said and done and, like you, want their children to grow up to be the best adults they can be .

So .. let us know if we can help and **thank you for being such fantastic role models for your children.**

Finally

What do you get if you cross a galaxy with a toad? .. Star Warts.

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them

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BOBBY CALF FUND RAISER

AFFCO is again running the **Cash for Schools** bobby calf fund raising programme this season. This is a fantastic opportunity to generate cash for the school. Last year AFFCO donated more than \$80,000 to local schools as a result of the programme. All you have to do is register your bobby calves with AFFCO for the current season (forms available at the school office), and nominate our school for the donation. It doesn't cost you anything, because AFFCO pays the donation over and above normal supplier payments.

TUPPERWARE FUNDRAISER

I am pleased to inform all you lovely Matarau families that I am your new Tupperware demonstrator and have a fabulous promotion that Tupperware is running to assist families hit hard by the recent Christchurch earthquakes.

Basically I will be leaving Tupperware brochures and order forms at the school office, which you can take away with you or look at there, and you can submit orders for Tupperware from the comfort of home. The benefit to earthquake victims is for every promotion held, Tupperware is donating cash to the Earthquake Appeal (with the goal of raising \$250,000) AND for every \$500 worth of sales to Matarau School families, I can order a "Recovery Pack", worth \$321, which can be sent to a Christchurch family of choice or donated anonymously to someone in need in Christchurch.

The other benefit is to Matarau School - all the gifts earned by the school from sales will be retained by the school to use as a raffle fundraiser or maybe as a prize in the annual Trivia Night fundraiser.

So look out for the brochures at the office, give me a call or email, and I can send one by email, just send in those orders!! I will be taking orders from Monday 28th March up til Wednesday 6th April.

Many thanks Michele Blagrove Home 4335 735, Mobile 027 6100 303, email duckgrove@ihug.co.nz

Friday Lunches



Reminder

Don't forget to
order on **Wednesday**
for Friday

Filled Rolls now available as well as the hot pies and sausage rolls. Orders need to be at the office by Wednesday to receive a lunch on Friday. This is a fundraising venture for the school and any profit is directed towards the children of the school. Any queries please call the office.

Sausage Roll, Mince Pie, Big Daddy with Drink \$4.00 Ham/Salad Rolls with Drink \$4.50
NEW!!!! Ham Sandwich/roll - no salad with Drink \$3.50